IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A chiral compound of the general formula I

(I)

and diastereomers thereof, where

R^1 and R^2, independently of one another, are

P-Y^1-A^1-Y^2-M-Y^3-$(A^2)_m$-Y^4- groups,

wherein

A^1 and A^2 are spacers having one to 30 carbon atoms,

M   is a mesogenic group,

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are, independently of one another, a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-,

–CO–, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, –O–CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O–
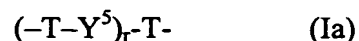
or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R   is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl,

P   is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, a group which is polymerizable or suitable for

polymerization, or a radical which carries a group which is polymerizable or suitable for

polymerization, and

m   is a value of 0 or 1, and

wherein the variables A^1, A^2, Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4, M, P and the index m, in the groups R^1

and R^2, ~~may be~~ are identical or different, with the proviso that, in the case where the index m

is 0, at least one of the variables Y^3 and Y^4 adjacent to A^2 is a single chemical bond.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesogenic group M conforms to the formula Ia

$$(-T-Y^5)_r-T- \qquad (Ia)$$

wherein

T is a divalent saturated or unsaturated carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical,

Y^5 is a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, –CO–, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-,

  -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, –O–CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O– or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

r is a value of 0, 1, 2 or 3, where, for r > 0, both the variables T and the

  variables Y^5 ~~may, in each case, be~~ <u>are, in each case</u> identical to, or different

  from, one another.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia, in the group R^1 and the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia in group R^2 are, independently of one another, 0 or 1.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein T is selected from the group consisting of:
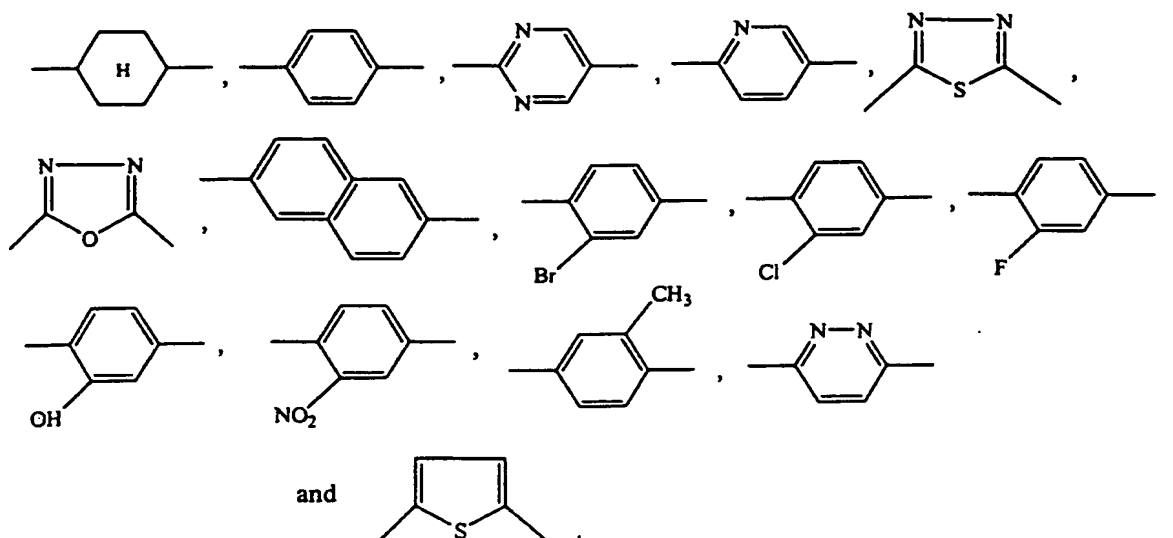
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein , in the groups R^1 and R^2, m is, in each case 0; Y^3 is a single chemical bond; and Y^4 corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O-; and wherein the variable Y^4 for group R^1 is identical to, or different from, the variable Y^4 for group R^2.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method of altering the optical properties of a liquid crystalline system, comprising contacting the compound as claimed in claim 1, as chiral dopant, with one or more liquid-crystalline systems.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1 and one or more liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A polymerizable liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1, and one or more polymerizable liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method for preparing an optical component, comprising forming said optical component from the composition of claim 7.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An optical component produced from the composition as claimed in claim 7.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method of printing or coating a substrate, comprising applying the composition of claim 8 to a substrate.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A printed or coated substrate produced from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a dispersion or emulsion, comprising contacting the composition of claim 8 with one or more solvents.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A dispersion or emulsion prepared from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a film, comprising polymerizing the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A film produced from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a pigment, comprising polymerizing the composition, as claimed in claim 8, within the interspace of a mesh.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A pigment prepared from the composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein T is selected from the group consisting of:
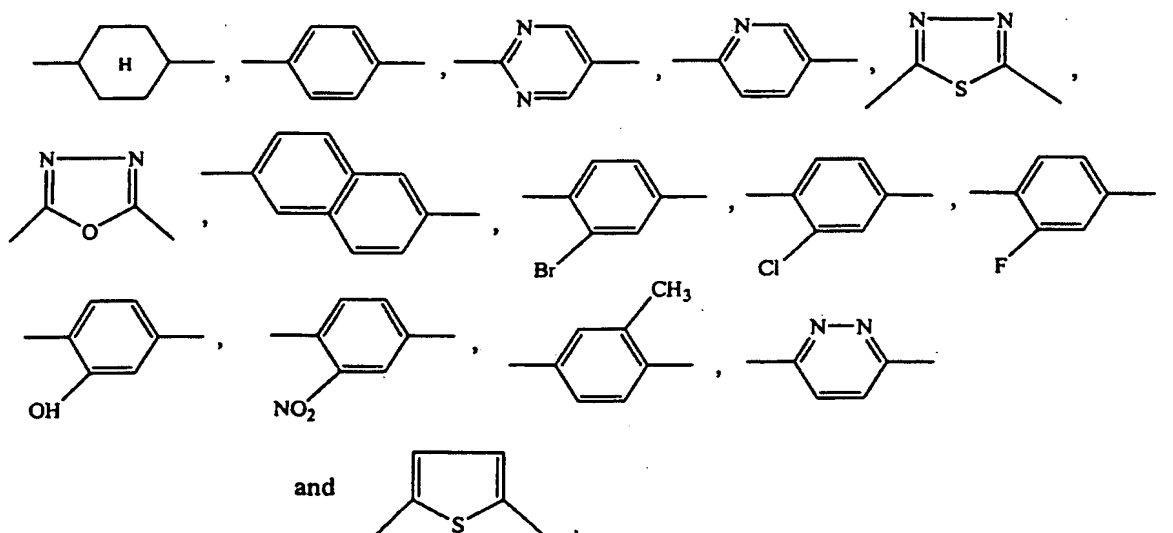
Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein, the groups R^1 and R^2, m is, in each case, 0; Y^3 is a single chemical bond; and Y^4 corresponding to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O-; and wherein the variable Y^4 for group R^1 ~~may be~~ is identical to, or different from, the variable Y^4 for group R^2.